

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

--- Replacement and annotated mark-up drawing sheets for amended figures showing the amended figures, if any, are attached at the Appendix hereto. Each figure is in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. An explanation of the changes, if any, is set forth below in this “Amendments to the Drawings” section. Replacement drawing sheets are identified in the top margin as “Replacement Sheet.” Any replacement drawing sheet including amended figures includes all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet. Any annotated drawing sheets, if the same are required by the Examiner, are identified in the top margin as “Annotated Marked-Up Drawings.” Any deleted figure is noted by an instruction to delete the figure. Any corresponding amendment to the specification necessary to be made because of an amendment to the drawings in this section is made in the corresponding “Amendments to Specification” section.

- THE DRAWINGS OF THE PATENT IS HEREBY AMENDED AS SET FORTH BELOW:
 - *No Amendment Made to the Drawings*
 - *Attachments: None*

V. REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

- STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 through 10 are pending in this application. Claims 11 through 19 have been canceled without prejudice.

- RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

- Examiner's Stance

The Examiner alleges that the subject application contains three inventions which are not linked to form a single general inventive concept. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that claims 1 -19, identified as Group 1, are drawn to a method for treating an Ag-Ge alloy; claim 20, identified as Group 2, is drawn to an Ag-Ge alloy, and claims 21 - 23, identified as Group 3, are drawn to a method of manufacturing an Ag-Ge alloy article. The Examiner requires the election of either Group 1, Group 2, or Group 3 claims for further prosecution.

- Applicant's Response

The Applicant elects the Group 1 claims, comprising claims 1 - 19, drawn to a method for treating an Ag-Ge alloy, for further prosecution with the instant application. The Applicant reserves the right to prosecute claims 20 through 23 in continuation applications.

- EXPEDITED PROSECUTION

- Examiner's Stance

The Examiner has noted that claims 1 through 19 are improper "use" claims. The Examiner has requested that those claims be amended to comply with U.S. practice.

- Applicant's Response

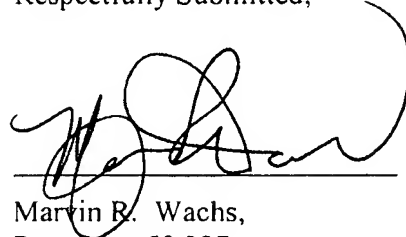
The Applicant has amended claims 1 through 10 to comply with U.S. practice. Claims 11 through 19 have been canceled thereby mooted the Examiner's request, for those claims.

CONCLUSION TO REMARKS

Applicants assert that this response is fully responsive to the Restriction requirement.
Applicants respectfully seek early allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: May 14, 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marvin R. Wachs', is written over a horizontal line.

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VI. APPENDIX

- *No Appendix Included in this Response.*